

**In the claims:**

1. (currently amended) A key blank (10) comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion (12) defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces (14, 16), joined by edge surfaces (18), at least one of said first and second side surfaces (14, 16) cuttable to form key cuts (20) that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element (26) movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion (12) and adapted for touching a lock combination element (54) disposed in a cylinder lock plug (46), wherein said at least one key combination element (26) has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element (54), and wherein said at least one key combination element (26) comprises a resilient arm (28) disposed in a recess (34) formed in said elongate shaft portion (12) and capable of resiliently protruding outwards from the recess (34) beyond both of said first and second side surfaces (14, 16).

2. (currently amended) A key blank (10) comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion (12) defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces (14, 16), joined by edge surfaces (18), at least one of said first and second side surfaces (14, 16) cuttable to form key cuts (20) that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element (26) pivotable about a pivot axis (36) and movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion (12) and adapted for touching a lock combination element (54) disposed in a cylinder lock plug (46), wherein said at least one key combination element (26) has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element (54).

3. (currently amended) The key blank (10) according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ 1, wherein said at least one key combination element (26) comprises a plurality of interface surfaces (59) for urging at least one lock combination element (54).

4. (currently amended) The key blank (10) according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ 1, wherein said at least one key combination element (26) comprises a pair of resilient arms (28) extending from a common base which is pivotally mounted in an arcuate cutout (32) extending from said recess (34), and wherein said recess (34) is formed with grooves (39) radially emanating from the arcuate cutout (32), wherein walls of said grooves (39) define limits of angular motion of said resilient arms (28).

5. (currently amended) A key (22) comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion (12) defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces (14, 16), joined by edge surfaces (18), at least one of said first and second side surfaces (14, 16) being formed with key cuts (20) that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element (26) movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion (12) and adapted for touching a lock combination element (54) disposed in a cylinder lock plug (46), wherein said at least one key combination element (26) has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element (54), and wherein said at least one key combination element (26) comprises a resilient arm (28) disposed in a recess (34) formed in said elongate shaft portion (12) and capable of resiliently protruding outwards from the recess (34) beyond both of said first and second side surfaces (14, 16).

6. (currently amended) A key (22) comprising:

a generally elongate shaft portion (12) defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces (14, 16), joined by edge surfaces (18), at least one of said first and second side surfaces (14, 16) being formed with key cuts (20) that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element (26) pivotable about a pivot axis (36) and movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion (12) and adapted for touching a lock combination element (54) disposed in a cylinder lock plug (46), wherein said at least one key combination element (26) has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element (54).

7. (currently amended) The key (22) according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein said at least one key combination element (26) comprises a plurality of interface surfaces (59) for urging at least one lock combination element (54).

8. (currently amended) The key (22) according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein said at least one key combination element (26) comprises a pair of resilient arms (28) extending from a common base which is pivotally mounted in an arcuate cutout (32) extending from said recess (34), and wherein said recess (34) is formed with grooves (39) radially emanating from the arcuate cutout (32), wherein walls of said grooves (39) define limits of angular motion of said resilient arms (28).

9. (currently amended) A lock (40) comprising:

a cylinder lock housing (44);

a plug-(46) disposed in the cylinder lock housing (44), arranged for rotation relative thereto and having a keyway (42); and

a key (22) comprising a generally elongate shaft portion (12) defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces (14,16), joined by edge surfaces (18), at least one of said first and second side surfaces (14,16) being formed with key cuts (20) that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element-(26) movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion-(12) and adapted for touching a lock combination element-(54) disposed in a cylinder lock plug-(46), wherein said at least one key combination element-(26) has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element-(54), and wherein said at least one key combination element-(26) comprises a resilient arm (28) disposed in a recess-(34) formed in said elongate shaft portion-(12) and capable of resiliently protruding outwards from the recess-(34) beyond both of said first and second side surfaces (14,16).

10. (currently amended) A lock-(40) comprising:

a cylinder lock housing-(44);

a plug-(46) disposed in the cylinder lock housing-(44), arranged for rotation relative thereto and having a keyway-(42); and

a key (22) comprising a generally elongate shaft portion (12) defining first and second generally flat oppositely directed side surfaces (14,16), joined by edge surfaces (18), at least one of said first and second side surfaces (14,16) being formed with key cuts (20) that define a key combination surface;

characterized by at least one key combination element (26) pivotable about a pivot axis (36) and movably disposed in the elongate shaft portion (12) and adapted for touching a lock combination element (54) disposed in a cylinder lock plug (46), wherein said at least one key combination element (26) has inherent energy for applying an urging force against the lock combination element (54).

11. (currently amended) The lock (40) according to claim 9 or claim-10, wherein said cylinder lock comprises plug pins (48) slidingly disposed in said plug (46) and arranged to move against driver pins-(50) disposed in bores formed in the cylinder lock housing-(44), and said key combination element-(26) is adapted for touching a lock combination element (54) disposed in said plug (46).

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12. (currently amended) The lock ~~(40)~~ according to ~~any of claims~~ 9-11, wherein which of the side surfaces ~~(14, 16)~~ that the key combination element ~~(26)~~ protrudes from is automatically determined by the position of the lock combination element ~~(54)~~.

13. (currently amended) The lock ~~(40)~~ according to claim 10, wherein as the key ~~(22)~~ moves linearly through said keyway ~~(42)~~, the key combination element ~~(26)~~ moves radially as it pivots about said pivot axis ~~(36)~~.

14. (currently amended) The lock ~~(40)~~ according to ~~any of claims~~ 9-13, comprising different oppositely-directed key combination elements ~~(26)~~.